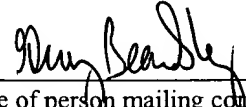


PATENT
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| <u>Guy Beardsley</u> | <u></u> |
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|--|---------------|---------------------|
| Applicant: | Frederick M. Ausubel et al. | Art Unit: | 1645 |
| Serial No.: | 09/975,719 | Examiner: | Albert Mark Navarro |
| Filed: | October 10, 2001 | Customer No.: | 21559 |
| Title: | VIRULENCE-ASSOCIATED NUCLEIC ACID SEQUENCES AND USES THEREOF | | |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office action that was mailed on December 12, 2003 in connection with the above-captioned patent application, Applicants submit the following amendment and remarks.